

### **§ 458.73**

before the opening of the hearing shall be served on the other parties, who may file written objections to the request within seven (7) days after such service. The Administrative Law Judge after consideration of any objections, shall grant the request provided the specified testimony and/or documents appear to be necessary to the matters under investigation. If the Administrative Law Judge denies the request he shall set forth the basis for his ruling. Upon the failure of any party or officer or employee of any party to comply with such a request which has been granted by the Administrative Law Judge, the Administrative Law Judge and the Assistant Secretary may disregard all related evidence offered by the party failing to comply with the request or take such other action as may be appropriate.

(c) Employees who have been determined to be necessary as witnesses at a hearing shall be granted official time only for such participation as occurs during their regular work hours and when they would otherwise be in a work or paid leave status. Participation as witnesses includes the time necessary to travel to and from the site of a hearing, and the time spent giving testimony and waiting to give testimony, when such time falls during regular work hours.

[45 FR 15158, Mar. 7, 1980. Redesignated and amended at 50 FR 31311, 31313, Aug. 1, 1985]

### **§ 458.73 Prehearing conferences.**

(a) Upon his own motion or the motion of the parties, the Administrative Law Judge may direct the parties or their counsel to meet with him for a conference to consider:

- (1) Simplification of the issues;
- (2) Necessity or desirability of amendments to pleadings for purposes of clarification, simplification, or limitations;
- (3) Stipulations, admissions of fact, and contents and authenticity of documents;
- (4) Limitation of the number of expert witnesses; and
- (5) Such other matters as may tend to expedite the disposition of the proceeding.

(b) The record shall show the matters disposed of by order and by agreement

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in such prehearing conferences. The subsequent course of the proceeding shall be controlled by such action.

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### **§ 458.74 Conduct of hearing.**

Hearings shall be conducted by an Administrative Law Judge and shall be open to the public unless otherwise ordered by the Administrative Law Judge.

### **§ 458.75 Intervention.**

Any person desiring to intervene in a hearing shall file a motion in writing in accordance with the procedures set forth in § 458.72 or, if made at the hearing, may move orally on the record, stating the grounds upon which such person claims an interest. Such a motion shall be filed with the Administrative Law Judge who shall rule upon such motion.

### **§ 458.76 Duties and powers of the Administrative Law Judge.**

It shall be the duty of the Administrative Law Judge to inquire fully into the facts as they relate to the matter before him and to prepare, serve and submit his recommended decision and order pursuant to § 458.88. Upon assignment to him and before transfer of the case to the Assistant Secretary, the Administrative Law Judge shall have the authority to:

- (a) Grant requests for appearance of witnesses or production of documents;
- (b) Rule upon offers of proof and receive relevant evidence;
- (c) Take or cause depositions to be taken whenever the ends of justice would be served thereby;
- (d) Limit lines of questioning or testimony which are immaterial, irrelevant, or unduly repetitious;
- (e) Regulate the course of the hearing and if appropriate, exclude from the hearing persons who engage in misconduct and strike all related testimony of witnesses refusing to answer any questions ruled to be proper;
- (f) Hold conferences for the settlement or simplification of the issues by consent of the parties or upon his own motion;
- (g) Dispose of procedural requests, motions, or similar matters which